Organisation, the number of persons living below the poverty line in the country is 2603 lakhs.

(b) 766.46 lakh Ration Cards have been issued by the State Governments/UTs to the BPL families (including Antyodaya families).

(c) Government of India has fixed a uniform scale of 35 kg.-of foodgrains per family per month.

Sale of food grains at higher prices

†2611. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the matter of taking more money from consumers due to non-availability of stock of foodgrains in shops has been revealed during raids on two dozen ration shops in Delhi;

(b) if so, the action taken against these shopkeepers and whether any stern action is proposed to be taken regarding cancellation of these shopkeepers' licences; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) to (c) Inspection and checking of Fair Price Shops (FPS) is a continuous process and whenever serious violations of the terms of authorization/licences are noticed, stern action is taken. In the recent past, authorization of 10 FPS dealers have been suspended, and four licenses have been cancelled on grounds of overcharging.

Study of issues concerning consumer protection

2612. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have mooted a proposal to set up six working groups to study various issues related to consumer protection and suggest measures for dealing with them effectively;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.